1: Jenness--229 (1913-16) 1922 Copper Eskimo
116, 802

"The intellectual inertia of the natives is apparent in their counting. A woman wanted to tell me that I had six cartridges. She held up three fingers and said 'three,' pingahut, then again held them up and said 'three.' I tried to make her count consecutively. She began on her fingers 'one, two,' then for the third finger said 'one' again and, on being corrected, 'three.' For the fourth finger she was quite at a loss, but another native volunteered 'four.' Beyond this neither of them had any numerals, though there are words for both 'five' and 'six.' Very few of the natives, however, know the word for six, and in ordinary conversation any number above three is 'many.' (2)"

"2. Cf. Stefansson, Anthrop. Papers, A.M.N.H., Vol. XIV, pt.I, p. 343."

2: Stefansson--28 (1908-1912) 1914 Copper Eskimo
802

"We were informed in a general way that the entire district from Gray Bay to Kent Peninsula was thickly inhabited and this was said to be especially so on Bathurst Inlet and the Kent Peninsula itself. As none of our informants could count above six, it was of course rather difficult to get a definite idea of numbers from them."

2: Stefansson--237
802, 117

(1908-12) 1914

Copper Eskimo

"May 18. Counting. I have heard of Eskimo being unable to count beyond six, but this is my first meeting with that fact. There are seventeen people here and after careful conference they showed me on the fingers of three hands, do not use feet as Mackenzie do, there were fourteen. They had no name for this number and on being pressed, none could count beyond six. A-tau-hĭrk, ma´l-lrŏk, pĭñ-a-hsut, hĭ-ta-mat, ta(d)l-lĭ-mat, arr-vĭn-ñran. A half hour of trying by Billy and me could not induce them to count at all, unless objects were in question, as our dogs, or theirs, the size of their families, etc. They would not count their fingers, deeming it useless, I suppose, their number is well known."

2: Stefansson--289-290 (1908-12) 1914 Copper Eskimo
802, 117

"Inability to count in the Coronation Gulf district has a wide direct influence; it is besides an index to their general mental status. At the Baillie Islands and west any grown person can count up to four hundred (twenty twenties); at Cape Bexley, in Victoria Island, and east at least as far as the Kent Peninsula no one can count above five. Even this seems to be a numerical vocabulary beyond their wants. In summer nothing is of so much interest or importance to them as the caribou, yet of all the people we have lived with and hunted with, no one (unless cross-questioned by us) ever used a numeral larger than 'two' to designate the number of caribou seen or killed. If there were more than two but less than six they knew how many they were but never told. The expression for more than two was invariably 'many' (ămĭhdăr´yŭĭt). When we pressed them for more exact details they could tell us 'three, four, or five,' but with impatience as if ours was unreasonable or childish curiosity. If there were over five the answer would be; 'I don't know how many, very many.' Of certain things, such as the population of a small village, they have approximately correct ideas of number to and even above fifteen and will indicate this by holding up their ten fingers and getting some bystander to hold up as many more as are needed to complete the total, prompting him by 'one more finger' till he holds up the required number. Of such a performance the main performer seems very proud and the assembled crowd finds it highly amusing. It is probable that it is seldom except when we ask questions [290] that anyone finds occasion to express a number above five. We never heard a man not of our

party ask any question in regard to exact number after he had been told 'many.'

In the Mackenzie district a band of caribou seen is usually reported by exact number if there are less than ten; over that number careful estimates are let suffice, e.g. 'over twenty,' 'less than forty,' etc. It is in fact, usually, exceedingly difficult to count caribou correctly if the band is over ten animals."

29: Jenness E-5 (1914-1916) 1959
ND8 Copper Eskimo ND8

123
437 tions in the dance-house, or gathered the elder men
124 inside our tent and enquired into their customs and beliefs.

802 Compared with the Eskimos of Alaska, these natives were astonishingly primitive. Their language contained no word for any number beyond six. I induced a woman to count on her fingers, and she began, in her own tongue, "one, two, one." I corrected her, and she started again, "one, two, three." There she stopped, and a man standing beside her said "four." Both had forgotten the words for the next two numbers, considering everything above four as many. Yet they were not so primitive as to be easily short-changed in any transaction, for they could separate a pile of articles into groups of three or four and count them with tolerable accuracy. A man to whom I gave only nineteen cartridges instead of twenty fitted them into an empty box, discovered the error, and indignantly demanded the missing round.

125 These people lacked, too, the artistic skill for which
532 their kinsmen in other places are famous. I distributed pencils and paper to several adults, both men and women, and asked them to draw sketches of people, houses, caribou, and anything else they cared to attempt. The results were amusing, similar to what we should expect from a child of six. Even my chart
[823] they were unable to follow. One man, more intelligent than the rest, seemed to grasp that a certain